

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1846.

## POLITICAL REFORMATION.

Certain civic reformers among us remind one of the old Scotch proverb concerning tinkers. They hammer away at the public kettle with a prodigious din, until they knock out its bottom; and, with no proof of good done, (unless it be in the noise they make and the money they take,) they urge the rent and battered state of the caldron as a constant reason for more hammering and more clangor.

It must be confessed that these apostles of reformation, besides the many strange ameliorations they have brought about, are altogether unfortunate in their reforms; all of which have to be presently reformed again, as a great deal worse than the supposed abuses which they pretended to cure.

The fact being, in truth, that the abuses or corruptions which one set in power have permitted are just as convenient for the ends of the next, "reforms" are usually but a bait with which to catch popularity; or, at best, they are the promises of men eager to get into authority, and only persuaded that, having gotten it, they will be extremely virtuous. The sincerest rarely can effect much in them; for, if abuses be serious, their existence bespeaks not only (as we have said) something that suits those governing, but an interest that has grown up and even a public immorality not easily cured. Accordingly, what were the "reforms" for which the Jacksonian "Democracy" clamored before it arrived at supremacy? Rotation in office; non-appointment of members of Congress to places in the gift of the Executive; non-reward of partisan editors; non-interference of Federal officers in elections; a great reduction of the public expenditures; and an extreme forbearance in the use of any disputed power under the Constitution. Now, of all these vehement promises, we might safely challenge our political adversaries to show a single one that has been kept. One after another, they all came to be violated.

Nor did the victorious "Democracy" by any means confine themselves to this sort of accomplishment of promised reforms—most like that of the unclean spirit mentioned in the good book, who being gone out of a man, walketh restless about in dry places, and presently taking with him seven demons fouler than himself, entereth again into the man, making his last state worse than his first. Not only did they thus give the purifications bargained for, but they bestowed upon us a variety of volunteer reforms, not in their promises, and not in any body's wishes.

They gave us (to mention only the chief) the President's claim to be more the representative of the people than Congress; his assumption that all the Executive officers were his officers; his pretension to dispense with the laws or execute them as he liked, under the plea that he was to judge for himself of their constitutionality; his war upon the Supreme Court; his other war upon the Senate as an aristocratic body; his third war upon the Bank of the United States; his fourth war upon the currency; his fifth war upon all credit; his sixth war for State and pet Banks; his seventh war against them; his eighth war upon nullification; his own party's nullification of the laws of Congress by a single branch of Congress; the expunge; the protest; the pocketing of bills not otherwise to be defeated; the Veto held up as a terror over legislation; the New Jersey case; State rights violently professed when convenient; State rights declared in the Proclamation never to have existed. They found the State faith good; and they gave us repudiation. They found the currency good; and they gave us suspension of specie payments. They found the vested rights of Corporations the policy of all our legislation as communities; and they left us charter-breaking. They found landed property safe; and they have given us anti-rent, with agrarianism in prospect. They found Republicanism; they have left us Locofocoism. They found us with two natural parties, both of a moderate spirit towards each other and of a conservative purpose towards institutions; they have left us two great and furious parties, embittered by mutual injuries, a hydra-brood of wild sects, ultraism of every thing, radicalism the most perilous, and that portent of headlong advance from bad to worse, "Progressive Democracy," not to be resisted except by a conservatism, forced, itself, to counter-demagogue and to oblige the people with many pernicious things, in order to win an influence that may draw them from things utterly destructive.

All these are solemn truths, not to be gainsayed, and of the sincerity of which the Public (if it asks one) has a strong pledge in that last avowal, certain to be any thing but agreeable to our own friends. We need scarcely say that we have recognised the fact with reluctance, and that it is wrong from us only by the growth of the state of things which alarms us no longer as mere politicians, but as citizens, and not for parties, but the Government and our country.

Younger men, not witnesses of what existed twenty years ago, (midway only in our own political experience,) must be less sensible of the frightful changes of which we speak: changes such, and so visibly threatening still more rapid and terrible ones, that, amidst a hundred sects and schisms bewildering the popular mind with new fanaticisms every day; amidst a practice as unscrupulous as the doctrines are over-vicious; amidst an universal disorder, demoralization, violence, venality, infatuation, and selfishness; with a patriotism of office-seekers and President-makers; with a liberty such as the worst or most ignorant men are loudest for; we turn our eyes only with dismay upon the spectacle of public affairs, and endeavor in vain to expel from our hearts impressions the most melancholy. It is in the midst of all these distractions that madmen and these corruptions that infest the land, that insensate visions of boundless dominion are played before us—visions of blessing the subjugated earth with the sway of a people pulling their own Government to pieces, and who, with as things are going on, presently be without laws or money, as they are already without arms!

But, to return to "reforms." A new reign begun, there must be new ones, to keep up the old delusions of promises, heretofore so fruitful of public good. Free-trade and the Subtreasury are the chief, and already notorious enough. Others, less expected, are in preparation; and among them is

one, thus heralded in one of the leading party organs—the Philadelphia "Pennsylvania" of the 3d instant:

"A RARUM.—Among the bills now before the House of Representatives is one providing for the more equal distribution of the offices (including auditors, clerk, messengers, &c. of the several departments of Government) among the citizens of the several States, Territories, and the District of Columbia."

"The importance, the necessity, and the justice of the change contemplated by the bill, are so manifest, that it is a matter of astonishment to every one who has reflected upon the subject, that a law of the kind has not been heretofore proposed. Its benefits will be lasting and general in their effect—it will give to the people of every portion of our vast Republic the advantages of having intelligent and trustworthy citizens, taken from among themselves, and acquainted with them and their peculiar interests, stationed at the capital, and at all times ready to communicate with them upon matters connected with their local interests or the general prosperity. It will give to the departments of Government the means to derive correct information from all parts of the Union, and in hundreds of instances save the expenditure of the public money. It is a well founded rumor that a clerk in one of the Departments, who has for some years resided in the western part of Pennsylvania, and who a few months since obtained a situation, after being subjected to much mortification and trouble, has since the first of November last, saved the Government by his suggestions, founded upon his local knowledge, upwards of six thousand dollars."

"Aside from the manifest advantages we have mentioned, who can doubt but that the system of appointments, contemplated by the proposed law, will afford an incalculable relief to the President and heads of departments. Under the existing state of things, it is absolutely impossible for the Executive and the members of his Cabinet to remove an incompetent incumbent, or one personally and politically hostile to them, and whose every wish and prejudice would lead him to thwart the policy of the Administration, without subjecting themselves to a positive persecution, in which mothers, children, and preachers all act as the persecutors. Indeed, the Departments have with some reason been denominated the 'national asylum for the helpless.' In lieu of able and worthy citizens, capable of answering to the numerous inquiries which the Secretaries are necessarily obliged to make, we have hundreds billeted upon the nation, at salaries of a thousand dollars and upwards per annum, who can do nothing but copy what is placed before them. It is true there are competent and industrious men in the Departments, who do not pass their numerous leisure hours in trifling gossip, in playing the sycophant, in ministering to the wants of the enemies of the Administration, or in devoting their time to the interests of the 'ten miles square'; but their number is small."

"The people ought to be made aware through the press of the importance of having in the Departments of our Government, in the most subordinate stations, those friendly to the measures and policy which the suffrages of the nation indicate as their will."

"The provisions of the bill will soon be before the public, when it will be seen that, with some amendment, it is as nearly one of justice and right as it is possible to make it."

At a general glance it may be seen that the bill referred to in this article is one for giving, by law, all public employments, down to the lowest, to partisans alone, and for stripping one-half the country of all participation in public trusts. This is what the original Jackson doctrine of no-partyism has come to! For, of course, it is not intended that an adverse State majority (as, say, in Ohio or Massachusetts) should have this right of nominating. In such States, and every where else, the party caucus must have the gift, and in this District it must vest, we suppose, in the Hickory Club, or whatever club succeeds it.

Necessarily, the President must conform to the authority thus bestowed upon illegal caucuses, consisting of Heaven knows what or whom. These appointments are to be made by a sort of election, without a constituency, without qualifications, without returning-officers to hold it, without polls, precincts, or days for voting. And, by such an appointment, the Executive function of nominating, the Senatorial check of confirming, are of course totally abrogated. Administrative and legislative responsibility for appointments is superseded in favor of bush-ballooning. What a system! What a system!

The President, however, consents—the plan being one meant for his case, and to shield him from local discontents, already troubling him. Happy Sovereign, over whose peace his subjects watch! Happy Senate, that get without asking it, the benefit of this zeal of the lieges to lighten the lord-paramount's labors!

For some nine months the Executive and his Cabinet have bent their incessant toil to the purification of public office; and lo! it is still only "an asylum for the helpless," a hospital of incurables! Still—by special luck, of course—one new clerk is said to have saved the Government six thousand dollars; the new theory being that men who have not been occupied with the public accounts are in the best condition to guard against public losses!

But, if there is any feature in the plan which charms the Pennsylvania and us more than all the rest, it is that of making every public officer (messengers and all) an organ for secret communication with the local managers and caucus at home. Of course, too, he is to be the regular and authentic correspondent of the party press there; which will thus, perhaps, get its letters cheap, the officer being paid out of the money of the People for writing them.

What a blessed "Reform" will this not be! We have spoken of the proposition discussed by the Pennsylvania as though it were one that might receive the sanction of Congress, and become a part of our system of government. But we have no serious apprehension of the adoption of a proposition so impracticable, so repugnant to all idea of consistency in the administration of the Government, so subversive of that method, necessary in the conduct of private business, which all experience shows to be yet more necessary in transacting the business of the Public.

THE NAVY AND THE ARMY.—The number and class of vessels in the Naval service of the United States on the 1st day of October is stated by the Secretary of the Navy as follows:

In commission.	In ordinary.	Build'g.	Total.
Ships-of-the-line.....	2	5	11
Frigates.....	7	3	14
Sloops of war.....	15	6	22
Brigs.....	5	1	6
Schooners.....	5	1	6
Steamers.....	6	3	11
Store ships.....	4	1	5
	46	18	76

The entire force enrolled in the Army of the United States on the 28th of November was as follows: Officers, 733; non-commissioned officers, privates, musicians, and artificers, 7,882; in all, 8,616 men.

The census of ILLINOIS for 1845 makes the population of that State 643,482—four counties to be heard from. The increase in the last five years is about 200,000, or nearly fifty per cent.

GEORGE PEPPER, Esq., the wealthiest citizen of Philadelphia, after the demise of the late Jacob Railway, whose death has been lately mentioned, has left a fortune of upwards of two millions of dollars, invested almost wholly in real estate and bonds and mortgages. This large estate will be divided among a score or ten children.

A MONSTER SLEIGH.—The editor of the Haverhill Banner says that this largest sleigh he ever saw was brought into town recently, drawn without freight by eight spanking horses. When filled, it requires to be drawn by twenty four or twenty-six horses. It is 45 feet long, 9 feet wide, and 15 feet high; it has 30 seats, and 160 persons can be seated comfortably in it. It was built in Bolton two years since.

## NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 12, 1845.

The Courier and Enquirer of this morning contains an interesting letter from Washington, signed J. W. W. Among other things this letter remarks, as a matter of fact: "I now desire to state, however, for the benefit of all concerned, and I do so upon the very highest authority, that from the day on which Mr. BUCHANAN transmitted to Mr. PARENIAH his letter of (I think) the 29th August, in which he withdrew the proposition of our Government, and virtually suspended all negotiation on the question of Oregon—from that day up to this time, our Administration have not received, directly or indirectly, through Mr. McLANE, Mr. PARENIAH, or any other source whatever, either here or in London, the slightest overture or intimation of any kind or description whatsoever. This declaration is intended to cover the whole ground; and, to guard against misconception, he who made this declaration added: 'The Administration knows nothing of the intentions, the wishes, or the expectations of the British Government, which is not equally known to the whole people of the United States.'"

Now, I place implicit confidence in this statement. It is evidently written after full inquiry, and bears on its front the marks of authority. Perhaps I place greater confidence in it, because it comports with the opinion that I have uniformly entertained, and generally expressed. While all around me seem to think there is no prospect of war, I am unable to see how we are to avoid it, unless the Administration and its supporters abandon the position they have so hastily, and, as I think, unwisely assumed.

Great Britain is silently, steadily, and efficiently making the necessary preparations to meet some mighty shock. Is it to be supposed that these vast expenditures are all intended as a mere pageant? And if not, what is the object in thus preparing for war in every quarter of the globe, at a time of profound peace with all the world. In my opinion, the British Government are determined that the Oregon question shall not remain in its present unsettled state. They will say, and say truly, that it is interfering with the trade and commerce of both countries, and that it is due to the citizens of both that some decisive measures should be adopted without further delay.

The British Ministry will not say to us (but think you they do not know it!) that they never better prepared for a war than at present, while their antagonist never was in a worse condition for such a calamity to befall them. I do not pretend that I possess any information on this subject but will have the wayfaring man may acquire, if he will have the same patience, and use the same industry that is used by your correspondent.

I have my apprehensions that Great Britain is more willing than we imagine to enter into a war with the United States, not so much for the disputed territory as for other causes, which will readily present themselves to the mind of every intelligent man. I believe that the grasping disposition which our dominant party has evinced has given alarm, not only to the British Government, but in a greater or less degree to the crowned heads of Europe, who, in the event of an Oregon war, will either calmly look on the struggle or take part against us. The monarchies of the Old World have been told, and it is daily repeated by those in power, that no peace will be allowed them until their thrones are prostrated in the dust.

When the United States was comparatively feeble such menaces passed as idle gasconade. But now that she has become a great nation, and has swallowed up one sovereignty, and is preparing to swallow up others, the case presents a very different aspect.

Let me suppose a case. Suppose we refuse to give the twelve months' notice, and refuse to abandon the ground we assume. Suppose Great Britain gives us the required notice, and at the end of twelve months takes exclusive possession as low as the 49th parallel, and also the joint navigation of the Columbia, and then, in that territory lying between the 49th and 54th degrees, requires the inhabitants to take the oath of allegiance to the British Government or to remove out of the territory, contending at the same time that we admitted their right as far as 49 degrees, what would be our condition? And what our policy? But I will not add to these remarks, except to repeat what I say every day in Wall street, that I cannot think Congress will be so desperate as to enter into a war; but I cannot see how they are to avoid it.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 13, 1846.

Last evening C. M. CLAY delivered, at the Tabernacle in this city, an address on the subject of slavery. There was a large assemblage of citizens of every opinion, religious and political. There was much applauding and clapping, interspersed with a goodly share of hissing, &c. Before the speech was made, I was somewhat at a loss to discover the immediate object which was in contemplation. I therefore inquired, in a former letter to you, "what good" is he to accomplish? The speech has removed all doubts.

Mr. CLAY announced, in strong language, that he was for "all Oregon"; and this, no doubt, was one of the great objects he had in view. The abolitionists had united with the Locofoco party in such a manner as to secure the annexation of Texas, and now their object seemed to be a war to secure the annexation of Oregon. Mr. CLAY said: "If it was necessary to take a slave State by force, he would take a free State by force." England dare not, and cannot go to war for it.

Another object of Mr. CLAY was very obvious. He came here to teach us how to amend our Constitution. Mr. CLAY said he "would now beseech them not to throw their votes and their influence in such a way as to defeat the effort to extend to the blacks of New York the right of suffrage. The two parties were taking their ground on this question," &c.

I make these short extracts without comment at present. The whole movement is an abolition movement, and so far as it will have any influence, will injure the Whig party, as the abolition movements have uniformly done.

The Whigs of Rhode Island are waxing warm in relation to their local divisions. The campaign, however, by opening thus early, will afford sufficient time to "cool down," which it is to be hoped they will do before the day of trial arrives in April. If no change takes place there will probably be three tickets. Advice at present, especially from citizens of other States, would have but little influence, and might be injurious. I may be permitted to remark, however, that in common with many aged and experienced Whigs, I deeply lament the position of the party in Rhode Island. To us it appears to be a contest whether Mr. SIMMONS shall or shall not be re-elected to the Senate of the United States, while the Locofocos are striving to defeat both sections of the Whigs by giving consequence to Mr. T. DONN.

The inquiry is very general. Will the Subtreasury bill pass Congress? And what will be its effect upon the money market and the Banks? I have not yet seen the bill; when I do see it I will answer these questions. But in the mean time I will state a fact that I have discovered. The "Old Thinkers" at Albany seem to understand how this measure will operate upon the country, and therefore they are for a United States Subtreasury, but opposed to a State Subtreasury. It is very good, say the Locofocos, for the United States, but very bad for the State of New York. From this I infer that they are familiar with the whole project.

A CALM OBSERVER.

## NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 15, 1846.

The news from England, which you will receive by this day's mail, has excited some sensation in this city, but very great doubt exists as to its correctness. I have taken the most unwearied pains to-day to ascertain what is public opinion on the subject. The inquiry of every man in Wall street that you converse with is, Do you or do you not believe in the statement of the Times? You are then reminded that the Times is not in the confidence of Sir ROBERT PEEL, and that the "Standard" is an Administration organ. So far as I am able to judge, public opinion in this city is against the Times. That is to say, a decided majority of the persons on Change-to-day place confidence in the representation of the Standard.

Now, I am very much in the habit of forming opinions for myself, and not being hurried away by the popular voice, which is much oftener wrong than right. I do not believe that the Times has made or would make such a bold statement without some sufficient authority for so doing. I have no doubt, judging from the character that journal sustains, that movements have been decided on, or are in contemplation, of the description referred to by the Times. It is not probable that a paper so highly esteemed for its correct information as to matters of fact, would fabricate and give publicity to such an important statement, and which must soon, if incorrect, be exposed to public gaze. It would not hazard its reputation so foolishly, and without a great object. I believe, therefore, that the ports are about to be opened.

We are an excitable people, and the unsettled state of our public affairs keeps us continually on the lookout for something new—some change. Yesterday our stock market was buoyant, and this was produced by the defeat of Senator ALLEN, on his motion to make his Oregon resolution the order of the day for the 27th instant, and postponing its consideration to the 10th of February. It was considered a triumph of the friends of peace over the rabid advocates of an unnecessary war, and, as such, had for the moment a favorable influence on the business operations of the day.

The foreign news has not produced the least effect, either favorable or unfavorable, upon our flour and other produce market. The operations of the day have been on a limited scale. It may be ascribed, perhaps, in some measure, to the doubtful state in which the news comes.

Stocks are again heavy, with a downward tendency.

A CALM OBSERVER.

## REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS.

FROM THE LIVERPOOL JOURNAL OF DECEMBER 6.

The London Times on Thursday (4th) surprised and delighted the public by the following rather unexpected announcement:

"The decision of the Cabinet is no longer a secret. Parliament, it is confidently reported, is to be summoned for the first week in January; and the Royal Speech will, it is added, recommend an immediate consideration of the corn laws, preparatory to their total repeal. Sir Robert Peel, in one house, and the Duke of Wellington in the other, will be told, prepared to give immediate effect to the recommendation thus conveyed."

"An announcement of such immeasurable importance, and to the larger portion of the community so unexpectably gratifying, almost precludes the possibility of comment. No pen can keep pace with the reflections which must spontaneously crowd upon every thoughtful and sensitive mind. They who have desired this change, and have long traced its manifold bearings on the welfare and happiness of the world, will in one moment see the realization of that fair prospect, and will hardly endure to be informed of what they already believe. The approaching event, therefore, which we this day communicate to our readers, must be left to speak for itself."

"It is understood that until Parliament meets nothing is to be done. For the Legislature will be reserved the responsibility of opening the ports. We presume that none will quarrel with this brief appearance of delay, now that the resolution of the Cabinet is known. The certainty of an immediate opening will be equivalent in its operation to an immediate order in Council. It is enough for the merchant and the capitalist to know that by the end of January, at the latest, the produce of all countries will enter the British market on an absolute equality with our own, excepting only those disadvantages which Nature itself has made, and which man cannot entirely remove. Any unnecessary appearance of haste would only create alarm, and might thus defeat, for a time at least, the very object of the measure. Happily there is no occasion for haste, even if haste were not almost certain to interfere with the speed."

"It is said that the decision has been made with that unanimity which perhaps the compulsion of circumstances alone can inspire. The reported exceptions are both insignificant and doubtful, and not of a sort to interfere with the construction of the Cabinet. There is, of course, one man who had it in his power to offer an enormous impediment to such a joyful result, but experience coming to the aid of his own intuitive sagacity, he was, it is told, taught to retire from an eventually fruitless opposition, and to husband his strength for more attainable objects. Fortunately for the present peace, if not for the ultimate prosperity of the nation, he has long expounded the policy which the chief secretary of the British Government has declared to be the most decisive and triumphant test of its soundness—viz. the absolute impotence of military greatness against the constitutional movements of the popular will. It is scarcely fair to imagine a contingency which the possible author has himself most judiciously recoiled at, but we are very sure that the 'Tiger House' will be only too thankful to be spared an unequal, and perhaps a disastrous conflict with the ministers of the crown and the representatives of the people."

"It is evident that this is the only quarter from which the Premier's position has been seriously threatened. From that quarter he might have expected, if his assistants felt it sufficient to desert in their cause to wish to be buried in its ruins; but the British aristocracy feel no such injurious and suicidal ambition. It is either too good or too wise to strike with such force that its own life is spent in the blow. The Premier has not been blind to the security afforded by the alternative of a common desertion, and he has set his political existence against the Lords and won the stake."

"The other parties with whom Sir Robert Peel might have been called 'upon to measure his strength, really, like some countries we see on the maps, have, at the present moment, rather a geographical than a political existence. In whatever way it has come to pass, so it is, the agriculturists have just now no more power than the animals they are industriously bringing to such magnificent proportions. From this quarter nothing was to be feared, and to imagine a danger would have been simply a mistake."

Such news as this (adds the Liverpool Journal) renders ordinary intelligence obtrusive, and it would have been still more welcome, had it come in time to catch the Halifax mail. It would have been a message of peace to the United States, and the intelligence gives a double value to the important facts contained in another article. There is abundance of food in America.

In ignorance of the Ministerial intention, Free Trade meetings, and meetings to memorialize Government on the apprehended scarcity, have been numerous during the week. They were all remarkable for a decided energy, which indicated that the public would endure no longer the evils of a system which at once made bread dear and employment scarce.

The Standard on Thursday and the Herald of yesterday hesitated to believe the announcement made by the Times as to the repeal of the corn laws, on the grounds that Cabinet Ministers would not violate their oaths of secrecy, and that the adherents of Government know nothing of the fact. On this the Chronicle remarks: "The Standard would have the 'greatest pleasure in giving an authoritative contradiction to the Times. It is not being allowed to do so, goes a great way to prove the statement in question to be true.' The Times of yesterday (5th) repeats the announcement."

The Liverpool Journal of December 6th contains also the following articles, which should be read in connexion with the above. They do not invalidate the substantial correctness of the Times's announcement:

"IMPORTANT.—The London Standard, received by the express train last night, contains the following:

"ATROCIOUS FABRICATION BY THE TIMES. 'We are now, we repeat, to say, in a condition to give the most positive and direct contradiction to the statement of a proposed repeal of the corn laws, which appeared in yesterday's Times. The statement, it may be remembered, embraced three propositions:

"First, that Parliament is to meet in the first week in January. Second, that Ministers have resolved upon a repeal of the Corn Laws."

"Third, that the projected repeal is to be announced in the opening speech."

"Every one of these three propositions is false. Parliament will not meet in the first week in January, or much, if at all, before the usual time of meeting."

"The Cabinet has come to no decision whatever upon the subject of the Corn Laws."

Emphatic as this is, it amounts to nothing. It will be seen in 'Talk on Changes,' the information coming from a good source, that the question is left to Sir Robert Peel's discretion, and therefore 'the Cabinet has come to no decision.'"

Parliament does not meet in the first week, but the week after the first. How can the Standard say what the Queen's Speech will or will not contain a month hence?

It is conjectured in the clubs that Mr. D'Israeli is the author of the article in the Times, and Mr. D'Israeli is the intimate companion of the Lord Chancellor in his social hours. We adhere implicitly to the Times. The resort to the form of propositions is a contemptible quibble."

## LATER NEWS—ANOTHER ARRIVAL.

By the mail of last night we received Extras from the New York Herald and Philadelphia North American, containing further accounts, brought by the packet-ship Iowa, which sailed from Havre on the 12th December, and brings London papers of the 10th.

The announcement of the London Times as to the repeal of the Corn Laws and opening of the ports was evidently premature. We add two or three brief extracts:

FROM THE LONDON STANDARD, DECEMBER 8.

The fabrication of the Times on the corn law question continues the principal topic of conversation in the city. Even the most ardent of the anti-corn law party, however, now abandon all hope of its truth; and if any confidence is to be placed in the anathemas pronounced on the leading journal for the deception it has practiced, it is in a fair way of respecting the fruits of its mendacity. Merchants and bankers are proverbial for dealing in matters of fact, and they anticipate an immense advantage will accrue from the incident, by pointing out the sources on which they can in future rely for information on all matters of deep public importance."

FROM THE LONDON TIMES, DECEMBER 10.

We have had good reason for believing that a day or two (perhaps the Privy Council) will be held this day at October will remove all doubt of the Ministerial determination in favor of an entire repeal of the corn laws. If, in the interval which has passed since our first announcement, any members of the Cabinet have felt themselves unequal to so great a decision, and have consequently relinquished it, a more "considerate" and a more "prudent" alternative, a day or two will furnish additional testimony to the strength of the Ministerial resolve, and to the difficulties which it is prepared to encounter, and we trust, to overcome."

Whatever requires time or admits of delay admits also of vacillation and change. It is possible, and certainly quite in accordance with the history of the great affairs, the most decisive plans, and the most settled engagements, that even a few days may modify without substantially altering the event. Whatever form the event may take, and whatever consolation any of our impugners may please to derive from the want of a more literal fulfillment to our words, a day or two will place beyond all controversy the substance of our announcement, viz. the consent of the Conservative leaders to an entire repeal of the corn laws."

FROM THE LONDON GLOBE.

The uncertainty as to what the intentions of Ministers are respecting the Corn Laws appears to have checked all speculation in the English funds, and the spirit of inactivity which has for several days characterized the English markets has to-day extended itself to those for Foreign Stocks and Shares. There are intimations that a commercial treaty is on the tapis between Great Britain and the United States."

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The Philadelphia United States Gazette gives a summary from the Polyneesian, printed at Honolulu, as the organ of the Hawaiian Government. The first article in the paper is a correspondence between the representatives of the British Government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of his Hawaiian Majesty, relative to a "code of etiquette" established at the Court of the latter. The code is that of the Court of Vienna, though even that would not have been objected to, had not the same order of Council made it a fixed rule that, in all ceremonies, the Consuls of the United States should take precedence of those of Great Britain, on account of the previous recognition of Hawaiian independence by the former; but, after much diplomacy, the clause of precedence was withdrawn. The editor of the Polyneesian thinks that a war between Great Britain and the United States would be attended with some serious proceedings in that neighborhood, as British and American national vessels are constantly thereabout."

The Collingwood left Tahiti on the 25th ultimo. All was quiet on shore, the French being busy at work on their fortifications and improvements."

The business men of the place advertise their goods mostly from the United States."

UNITED STATES WHALE FISHERY.—From the full and correct annual statement of the condition of the whale fishery in the United States, published in the last number of the "Whalemen's Shipping List," we learn that the whole number of vessels now employed in the whale fishery, from all the ports in the United States, includes 680 ships and barges, 34,315, 23 schooners, and 1,800 men, making an aggregate of 233,392 tons; showing an increase of 15,607 tons during the past year, and an increase of 33,115 tons since January 1, 1844. The imports from this branch of commerce during the past year have been 157,917 bbls. of sperm oil; 272,730 bbls. of whale oil; and 3,167,142 lbs. of whalebone."

WILMINGTON, (DE.) JANUARY 9.

EXPLOSION BY STEAM.—Yesterday morning an unfortunate and lamentable accident occurred at the paper mill of Joseph Scott & Co., in the western part of our city. The revolving boiler, in which the rags are steamed previous to being converted into paper, was blown from the back part of the mill into Second street, and struck the lower part of Mr. Jos. Beggs's dwelling, breaking his door and steps into atoms. The engineer, Patrick McCoy, was killed instantly; John Stewart, the fireman, was very badly scalded; John Bennett was also very much injured, but it is believed he will get well. The girls and children attached to the mill fortunately escaped without hurt.—Journal.

ANTI-RENTISM is under full headway in the Legislature of New York, and the dominant party is invoked in every possible way to interfere in the matter of contracts between landlord and tenant."

To show the influence and nature of the appeals made in behalf of the anti-renters, we quote this extract from a speech of Mr. Watson, one of the members of the Assembly who was elected by these anti-renters:

"He would say to the Democratic party that if such a disposition was made now at the opening of the session, the hearts of these men would be Steele against them, believing that they could not obtain a fair hearing. It would be found that twenty thousand Democratic votes would be brought to bear against the party in the approaching contest."

Mark the concluding lines and nature of the argument! The justice of the case is left out of the question; but the demands of the anti-renters, be they what they may, are to be complied with, or the twenty-thousand anti-rent votes will go in a body against the Democracy. Think of it, fellow-clients of all parties.—N. Y. Gazette.

FROM SANTA FE.—Messrs. Webb and Pruett, with four other gentlemen, left Santa Fe for the settlements on the 2d of November, and arrived at Independence on the 21st ultimo, after experiencing exceedingly severe weather upon the plains. Trade in Santa Fe was very dull at the time of their departure. A large company was preparing to start thence to Chihuahua.—St. Louis Reveille.

A JUST DECISION.—The New York Commercial gives an account of a law decision, in that city, in the case of Joseph Blunt vs. Allen Hay—an action to recover damages for injury done to plaintiff's house by the proximity of a soap and candle factory. Chief Justice JONES, in his charge to the jury, in allusion to the idea that the defendant had located his establishment there while most of the vicinity was unimproved, and that those who afterward came into the neighborhood had no right to complain, said that he did not consider the point well stated; and that in large cities where the suburbs are in a constant state of progress, from day to day, the proprietors of such establishments are bound to yield to far as the general welfare.

Col. WM. BARNARD, of Portsmouth, (N. H.) shipped for Vera Cruz, a few days since, 736 pages of machinery for the Guadalajara Spinning and Weaving Company; also, machinery for a cotton and a paper mill for the same company. The aggregate weight of the whole is about 140 tons."

By the Mexican schooner Joaquina, which left Tampico on the 1st instant, we have late and important intelligence from Mexico. The rumors which have been for some weeks in circulation that Gen. PAREDES had at last declared against the Government, appear at length likely to be verified by the course he is pursuing. A revolution is now on foot, or has already been consummated. This arrival being from Tampico we have not our usual files, so as to be able to give a continuous narrative of events; but from the extracts of newspapers and placards before us we are enabled to form some opinion of what is going on.

The revolution in progress commenced with the "Army of Reserve," stationed at San Luis Potosi. The agitation and ferment preliminary to an outbreak probably gave occasion to the rumor which was in circulation in Vera Cruz on the 1st December, when the British steamer left for Havana. It was a fortnight after that things reached a crisis. On the 14th of December the Commandant General of the Department, Dr. MAXIMILIANO ROMERO, invited to his residence, at San Luis Potosi, the superior and other officers of the Army of Reserve, as well of the garrison of the Department. Being there assembled, Gen. Romero read to them a manifesto, prepared for the occasion, in which the duties of the armed force of the country are well pointed out, but grave political evils are assigned to excuse themselves for the act they are about to commit.

The manifesto alleges that the existing Administration, from which a year since all had hoped so well, had conducted the Government to the very brink of a precipice; that it had established the most preposterous theories upon which to administer internal